

The Pastor's Corner

A SNOWY SCENE

Whether you enjoy snow or not, there is one thing that we can all admit: it completely changes the landscape. Usually the transformation is quite abrupt! Often, we can experience it as we go to bed: perhaps we see a few snowflakes but the ground is quite bare. In the morning, when we wake, there may be several inches of snow on the ground- and our house, front lawn, and perhaps even the farm all look quite different- and quite beautiful.

The readings for this weekend remind us of a complete and abrupt transition that will happen when Christ appears. In the prophetic writings, it was all made very clear that this figure- this Messiah- was going to completely change the landscape- and change it for the better. Crooked ways will be made straight, every valley shall be filled- every mountain made low. Rough ways shall be made smooth. All sorts of imagery of what will happen is provided in Isaiah. Why is all this imagery so important, though? Because, Christ comes to change and make things better.

Now, Christ coming to us is not exactly like a snowfall where everyone just has it blanket them over and change their life involuntarily. We have to choose to accept this positive change. Yes, many of us are dealing with "mountains" of difficult situations in our lives. Perhaps we are looking at a valley of sadness, wondering if we will ever make it out. Maybe it just seems like the twists and turns of life are dizzying and confusing. If we allow Christ to enter in- and make Him first priority in our life- He will change it. He has promised, and He will do it.

It's not just snow that has the power to change and make things beautiful. Christ can rescue us and change our lives where we are, in all the twists, turns, mountains, and the valleys we experience. May we allow the sweet snow of Christ to enter in and change our lives for the better- and the more beautiful. Make Him a priority- and He can do something beautiful with your life.

-Fr. Belken

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 9th is the transferred Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception- which due to some recent clarifications from the Vatican is a holy day of obligation. As a gentle reminder, this means if Mass is deliberately missed on this day without a very substantial reason (equivalent to or greater than a physical ailment or physical impossibility) is a serious sin (which means it needs confessed in the sacrament of Reconciliation as soon as possible after Mass is missed).

MASS TIMES ARE AT 7AM AT ST. LAWRENCE, 8AM AT ST. DENIS,
AND 7PM AT ST. DENIS.

Readings for Next Sunday

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2024

Zep 3:14-18a

Phil 4:4-7

Lk 3:10-18

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT · DECEMBER 8, 2024



Saint Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Phone: 573-545-3317 Website: www.stlnh.org

St. Lawrence Church – New Hamburg, Missouri
P.O. Box 247 Benton, Missouri 63736 573-545-3317
Rev. Daniel Belken, Pastor
Billy Ray Johnson - Parish Office Manager

2nd Sunday of Advent
December 8-14, 2024
www.stlnh.org
E-Mail address: Office@stlnh.org

<u>Mass Schedule</u>							
Sat.	Dec	7	4PM	Felix Enderle	Thu.	Dec	12 7AM Joe Glueck
Sun.	Dec	8	8:30AM	Parish Family	Fri.	Dec	13 7AM Kelsi Essner
Mon.	Dec	9	7AM	Margie Klipfel	Sat.	Dec	14 4PM Jeff Steger
Tue.	Dec	10	6PM	Melvin Glastetter	Sun.	Dec	15 8:30AM Parish Family
Wed.	Dec	11	7AM	Lefty & Ida Seyer			

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION. DEC 8-Pat Moore, DEC 15-Mary F. Glastetter, DEC 22-Theresa Essner, DEC 29-Jill Pinkston.

SUNDAY COLLECTION:

December 1, 2024: Loose \$199, Envelopes \$4563, Total: \$4762.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th, ST. AMBROSE BREAKFAST. Whole hog sausage, eggs, biscuits & gravy breakfast at St. Ambrose Parish Center, Chaffee. Served from 7:30-11AM.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th, SWEETS WITH SANTA. You are invited to join us for family fun and holiday activities, including pictures with Santa! 9:30AM-12PM in the Parish Center. See the flyer in the back of church.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9th, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLY DAY MASS. December 9th, St. Lawrence 7AM, St. Denis 8AM & 7PM, December 10th, St. Lawrence 6PM, St. Denis 7PM.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10th, CHOIR PRACTICE. After 6PM Mass, please join us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13th, CHURCH CLEANING. Chairman: Floyd & Carol Klipfel
Zakery & Amanda Johnson, Billy & Stacey Johnson, Neal Kern, Dale Kern.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13th, ADORATION. St. Lawrence Church, 7:30-10:30AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th, CHURCH DECOATION. "Save the Date" If you would like to help decorate the church, it will be following Mass on December 15th. Any help is greatly appreciated.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th, CHRISTMAS CHURCH TOUR OF SCOTT COUNTY. 4:30-7:30PM. This is a free self-guided tour. St. Denis and St. Lawrence Church will participate in this tour. St. Lawrence will have both of our churches decorated and open, along with our beautiful grotto, and a live nativity as part of our tour. More information can be found on the flyers that are in the back of the church.

<u>Lector & Communion Distributor:</u>	Sat.	Dec	14	4PM	Frank Glueck
<u>Organist/Cantor:</u>	Sat.	Dec	14	4PM	Bernice Kern/Mary B. Glastetter
<u>Gift Bearers:</u>	Sat.	Dec	14	4PM	Mr./Mrs. Ethan Lee
<u>Servers:</u>	Sat.	Dec	14	4PM	Leeland Walter/Oliver Walter/Isabel Crook
<u>Ushers:</u>	Sat.	Dec	14	4PM	Gerard Essner/Jamie Essner/Jeff Essner/Paul Wm. Essner

<u>Lector & Communion Distributor:</u>	Sun.	Dec	15	8:30AM	Pat Moore
<u>Organist/Cantor:</u>	Sun.	Dec	15	8:30AM	Bernice Kern/Kari Bickings
<u>Gift Bearers:</u>	Sun.	Dec	15	8:30AM	Mr./Mrs. Samuel Long
<u>Servers:</u>	Sun.	Dec	15	8:30AM	Leeland Duenne/Kynli Duenne/Kaybree Bahr/Paisley Bahr
<u>Ushers:</u>	Sun.	Dec	15	8:30AM	Tim Essner/Tom Essner/Travis Estes/Derek Felter

2025 ENVELOPES. 2025 collection envelopes are available for pickup in the back of church. Please check and make sure that you pick up the correct envelopes and if not please return them with the rest of the envelopes.

MEN'S CLUB BUTCHERING. Signup sheet is in the foyer of church for sausage and headcheese from St. Joe's Sodality annual butchering. Men mark your calendars; the sausage & headcheese will be made on January 11th.

SEMO CAMINITO. A small southeast Missouri version of the Camino de Santiago (The way of St. James). 3 days, 10 churches, 40 miles. A walking journey in holiness for an increase in vocations, the sanctity of our priests and the laity in our diocese, and for those who have fallen away from the Church. March 10-12, 20-25. Flyers are in the back of the church.

THANK YOU. St. Lawrence Parishioners and the Parish School of Religion for making a Joyful Noise on Thanksgiving Day! Your generous Noisy Offering donation for the Jesus in Disguise Food Pantry was \$967.56!! It will truly make a change for those we serve in our area! Your participation and support are greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU. Words cannot express our gratitude for your generosity and kindness during the death of our beloved wife, mom, and mimi. From the prayers, support, food, and kind words—we feel so blessed to live in the community we do, surrounded by such loving and caring people as all of you. There is no way to describe the incredible love we have felt during this very difficult time, and we thank you for being there for us in our time of need. -Jeanne Essner Family.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF ELMER HEISSERER AND FOR HIS FAMILY DURING THIS TIME OF LOSS AND SORROW.